

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Medical Officers have been requested by the Ministry of Health to refrain from quoting figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

We are also asked to confine our remarks to essential matters with the object of saving paper.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J.F.Dawson,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :- J.F.Dawson, M.B., B.Ch. D.P.H.  
Sanitary Inspector :- J.J.Beresford, Cert. S.I.E.B.  
Meat Inspector :- J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

The Birth Rate has increased.  
The Death Rate has decreased.  
The Infant mortality rate is slightly higher than 1940.

Laboratory Facilities.  
Nursing in the Home.  
Ambulance Facilities.  
Maternity & Child Welfare.  
Air Raid Precautions.

Facilities available under the above headings have not changed since 1940.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

I have not received any adverse reports regarding the inspection of meat and food from either the Meat Inspector or the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been an improvement in the conditions of the cowsheds and dairies since 1940, but there are still some which do not come up to the standard required by the Regulations.

WATER.

The water supply continues to be satisfactory.

## SEWERAGE.

The sewerage plant continues to give satisfaction. In spite of the up to date system of sewage disposal in the town it is discouraging to report that some of the schools in the town are still without modern sanitary arrangements. It is impossible to make progress with ideas of hygiene and public health if the education centres do not take a lead. It is only by instilling the principles of progress in the youth of the country that we can hope to improve the general conditions which go to make a healthy nation.

The majority of schools in the Whittlesey district are certainly not environments in which this ideal can with ease be promoted.

## HOUSING.

There has not been any substantial improvement in the housing conditions during the year.

The question of post war housing is one that should receive the attention of the Council, the rehousing of men in the services and their families is a matter which should now receive serious consideration. Plans should now be made so that they can be put into operation as soon as hostilities cease.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From table "A" it will be seen that Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during the year. The outbreak of Measles was a continuation of the outbreak which had occurred in the latter part of 1940. This was followed by an outbreak of Whooping Cough which subsided towards the end of the year.

The most disturbing fact in this report is that 9 cases of Diphtheria have occurred.

The Whittlesey Council have promoted schemes for Diphtheria immunisation for several years before the recent campaigning commenced, yet the people of Whittlesey show less interest regarding the protection of their children than do the people in any of my other districts.

It is gross negligence on the part of parents if they fail to have their children protected against this disease which claims its victims each year.

If parents continue to loose their children as a result of this disease they have no one to blame but themselves.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The figures below show the number of children who have been immunised during the year.

Children between 1-5 years } 29 or 6.4% of the pre-school population.

Children between 5-15 years } 426 or 34.2% of the school-going population.

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Table Showing Incidence of Tuberculosis during 1941

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-								
5-								
15-			1	1				
25-								
35-		1				1		
45-	2							
55-								
65 and up-wards								
Totals.	2	1	1	1		1		

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY.

Disease	No. of Cases.	Age Groups.												Deaths.
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever.	2.			1			1							
Diphtheria.	9.				1		5			2		1		
Pneumonia	11.				1	1	2	1	1	2	2		1	4
Cerebrospinal Fever	2.			1				1						
Whooping Cough	83	6	2	10	7	12	46							
Measles	93.	5	4	8	12	13	32	10	3	6				